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Dkt. 2271/74559

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application of: Masakazu MURANAKA et al.

Serial No.: 10/537,368

Date Filed: June 2, 2005

For: INK CARTRIDGE, HOUSING THEREFORE, INK BAG, INK-JET RECORDING APPARATUS, INK CONTAINER, AND IMAGE-FORMING APPARTAUS

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited this date with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

  
Paul Teng  
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March 9, 2007  
Date

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Commissioner for Patents  
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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

In order to ensure compliance with the applicant's duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and §1.97(a)-(d), Applicant hereby submits this Information Disclosure Statement.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(3). To the best of Applicants' knowledge, this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the date of mailing of a first Office Action on the merits in connection with this application.

Alternatively, Applicant requests consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c)(1). The references listed in the annexed Form PTO-1449 were cited in a February 2, 2007 search report in connection with a counterpart European patent application. A copy of the February 2, 2007 European Search Report is also enclosed herewith. Each reference listed in the Form PTO-1449 annexed to this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. Other references EP0816098 and JP2001-024763 cited in the February 2, 2007 European Search Report were previously cited with the Information Disclosure Statement filed on June 2, 2005 and

therefore such other references are not listed on the annexed Form PTO-1449.

It is respectfully requested that the information cited in the annexed Form PTO-1449 be considered by the Examiner in connection with the above-identified patent application, and that such art be made of record in said application.

According to the August 5, 2003 OG Notice published by the Patent and Trademark Office, the Office has waived the requirement under 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2)(i) for submitting a copy of each cited U.S. patent and each cited U.S. patent application publication for all U.S. national patent applications filed after June 30, 2003 and for all international application that have entered the national stage under 35 U.S.C. §371 after June 30, 2003.

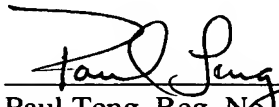
Accordingly, copies are submitted herewith for only references listed on the annexed Form PTO-1449 that are not a U.S. patent or U.S. patent application publication.

The citation of the listed items is not a representation that they constitute a complete or exhaustive listing of the relevant art or that these items are prior art. The items listed are submitted in good faith, but are not intended to substitute for the Examiner's search. It is hoped, however, that in addition to apprising the Examiner of the particular items, they will assist in identifying fields of search and in making as full and complete a search as possible.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement is not an admission that the information cited herein is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b).

The Patent Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees that are required for consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement and to credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 06-2140.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Form PTO-1449						U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office						Atty. Docket No. 2271/74559				Serial No. 10/537,368				
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION (Use several sheets if necessary)												Applicant: Masakazu MURANAKA et al.								
												Filing Date: June 2, 2005				Group Art Unit: 2861				
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS																				
Examiner Initial		Document Number								Date		Name		Class		Subclass		Filing Date if Appropriate		
		US	6	0	1	7	1	1	8	1-25-2000		Gasvoda et al.								
		US	6	0	3	3	6	1	0	3-7-2000		Swanson et al.								
		US	6	4	1	6	1	6	6	7-9-2002		Robinson et al.								
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS																				
		Document Number								Date		Country		Class		Subclass		Translation		
																		Yes	No	
		JP	59	-	2	2	7	4	5	8	12-20-1984		Japan						Abstract	
OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)																				
		EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT in connection with European application EP 03 81 2699																		
EXAMINER										DATE CONSIDERED										
*EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609: Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.																				